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ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

WEDNESDAY, - - DECEMBER 15.

We refer to an advertisement, in our want column, of the "Old Man."

We do not believe that this old man was that old man, or that either of them saw that woman, and neither does anybody else.

Seven of the ten members of the De Freycinet Cabinet are in the new ministry of M. Goblet. And the new minister has announced that he would follow the foreign policy of his predecessor.

We hear that the great New York journals have pooled and made up a sum to get Madame Clenberger, the spiritualist, to materialize the Richmond "Old Man" for use in the cablegrams about the Campbell divorce case.

This is enterprise.

A noted surgeon is advertised as having performed a wonderful operation in removing a section of a man's backbone.

We wish that he could demonstrate his capacity to put it back, for he could secure a patient in the Democratic party of Virginia, whose recovery of spinal rectitude would make a miracle of science and the undying fame of a doctor.

"Private detectives" have become a fertile source of blackmailing profits, and Judge Brady, of New York, has done a good piece of work in sentencing one, to three years in the penitentiary, who was convicted of a "put-up job" in a divorce case. Of all crimes not specifically designated this is the worst, to form a conspiracy to blast a woman's life by that same "put-up job" and the practice, which has become almost common, ought to be stopped by a few more examples like Judge Brady's, except that the sentence ought to be heavier.

It is rumored that Recorder Matthews' name will not again be sent to the Senate, but that the President will allow him to continue to draw his fees until the legal expiration of the time within which a recess appointment must be reported to the Senate and then make another appointment or allow a vacancy to occur.

There was an immense amount of talk about this appointment, as the important office of Recorder of Deeds of the District had been long held by Fred. Douglass, and the Washington people as well as all influential Democrats thought the office should have been given a white citizen of the District.

The President was equally positive that it should go to a representative colored citizen.

A committee of the Central Labor Union of New York reported last Sunday that the boycott against Ehret, the brewer, was unjust and unwarranted by the facts. The report was not adopted, but it would have been greatly to the credit of the Central Labor Union if they had taken the occasion to make a sensible stand at once against a thing that has had a temporary run because it was not understood but which is already under the ban of the law and must perish as soon as people understand its character. The boycott means combining to injure a man's business, and is thereby in the nature of common sense an outrage. It has no relation whatever to the right of people to deal where they choose, which nobody ever presumed to doubt.

DEMOCRACY OR BOSSISM.

Looking forward to the next contest between the Democrats and Republicans in this State to the view of common sense the position of the Democrats will be untenable in the first skirmish if the idea holds to abrogate the decisions of the United States Supreme Court and whip in all the members of the party with a threat.

If people of approved patriotism and recognized as loyal to the fundamental principles of Democracy are to be denounced as enemies of the State because they do not approve of the personal theories of a certain set of politicians, it is time to ask what we have gained over the Mahoneite bossism, and whether that mechanical adjustment of autocratic ideas is to obtain over the accepted Democratic principles of free thought and action.

But beyond the method is the still worse purpose of ignoring a stern fact that was incised on the very heart of this people with the point of the sword, and which no theory of ancient State sovereignty can plaster over any more than it could revoke the decree of war.

People nowadays are not to be persuaded or bullied into any autocratic idea. They may be deceived for a time, but the plan of forcing a party into line with the knout is preposterous.

Even the bugaboo of Mahone will fail, because it has been demonstrated recently that the Republicans can win a victory in Virginia without his aid.

Finally, the only real reason advanced against a fair settlement of the debt is that the Republicans would advocate repudiation and "sweep the State."

"Sweep the chimney!"

The party managers have heard or ought to have heard months ago that the Republicans, when the issue comes, are obliged to advocate a debt settlement.

Then, what on earth can be the reason for this plan to hood the people with a misrepresentation and expect them to obey the order of the party managers under the threat of the responsibility for more Mahoneism?

The question is open, and if it is answered in many quarters with an insinuation against the wisdom of the party managers, surely there is not any circular yet written against this exercise of Democratic privilege not laid down in the policy.

INTER-STATE COMMERCE BILL.

The inter-State commerce bill allows the commission to give considerable margin in the matter of the relations between through and local freights, but as to pooling contracts the prohibition is positive.

It is forbidden to give one customer an advantage over another that is undue and unreasonable. It may be that the object of a pooling agreement is not to extort unreasonable rates, but to maintain uniformity of charges within a certain field of operation and that it does not relieve the parties altogether from the influence of competition. The trunk line pool, for instance, in fixing its rates is compelled to have regard for the competition of water routes and for the tendency of traffic to take a course outside of the field which it commands.

The publication of rates required by this bill removes the secrecy, which is one of the strong points in a fight of cutting rates; and the prohibition of a higher charge for a short haul than a long one prevents a road from recouping in local freights what it may lose in one of these fights on long routes for low rates.

SENSIBLE MURLANEY.

This is the name of one of the delegates to the "Congress of Federated Trades" at Columbus, and Mr. Murlaneey deserves the applause due to a person who possesses in a high degree the gem which is called common sense, though it is rare.

"When I have trouble as a bricklayer, I do not want a butcher, a shoemaker, and a blacksmith to act in any troubles that my union is involved in," says Mr. Murlaneey.

The idea of the Knights of Labor in the various phases of folly has been that a butcher could arrange the affairs of a blacksmith, provided he had enough of other men who were not blacksmiths to help him, and besides this that the blacksmiths could be ordered on a strike just to coerce employers of bricklayers.

The idea that when a Knight of Labor in Arkansas has some trouble with his employer, that all other Knights everywhere else must leave work and starve their families, is the keystone of the fabric of a system that has threatened to turn back the natural and logical development of mankind and break the current of progress in a country where free institutions are the happy result of centuries of growing civilization.

"The alleged old man" seems to have served his purpose quiet. Now if some enterprising person will hunt up the boy who carried the fatal note the last missing link in the celebrated case will have been supplied. Any boy will do if he was about there during the week.

We think that the TIMES voices the sentiment of the people when we call on the August Moonshine of the *Dispatch* to show us that magic mirror that the moonshines of the orient possess, and let the automaton figure of the "old man" flit across its crystal reflection just once, that we may know hereafter what he thinks about the debt question, as he certainly never had anything to do with the case for which his spirit was called.

SPECIAL AND PERSONAL.

A Boston editor wrote "Republican caucuses," but the Democratic compositor put it "Republican carouses." A Democratic compositor is calculated to enliven the columns of a Republican journal. *Atlanta Constitution.*

Our accomplished and amiable friend, Colonel Randolph Tucker, was in the city yesterday and enjoyed the greetings of dozens of his friends and admirers.

Time has dealt so tenderly with the Colonel that he is as youthful, vigorous, and gay as when his brilliant wit delighted the choice spirits of the Confederate court here twenty-two years ago when he was Attorney-General of Virginia.

"It is positively shocking," as Lord Allicash says, that the story of Poker clubs should prevail to such an extent in Washington. Not only are the names of distinguished statesmen hinted at as skillful players, but there is a sort of gentlemanly bummer element claiming quasi respectability where the game of poker is played a la wolf and lamb, and unsuspecting visitors to the gay capital roped in and fleeced.

A Portland Chinaman wrote the following note to a lady who wanted to engage a cook: "Mrs. Lady—Friend She: You when at there told to me want to boy cooking. I had have a boy is good man and honest man he neat and clean and doing nicely that this one best one never you have before like he does. I wish could take him to stay with you and Loong Gitt recommend to him come to she."—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

Tennyson's New Poem.

"LOCKESLEY'S HALL SIXTY YEARS AGO." Lord Tennyson's new volume is out today (15th December). Its principal feature is another "Lockesley Hall," of which the following is the most striking passage:

Hope the best but hold the present, fatal daughter of the past;
Shape your heart to front the hour, but dream not that the hour will last;
Aye, if dynamite and revolver leave you courage to be wise.
When was age so crammed with menace, madness, written, spoken lies?
Envy wears the mask of love, and, hushing sober fact to scorn,
Cries to weakest as to strongest, "Ye are equals, equal born!"
Equal-born! Oh! yes; if yonder hill be level with the flat.
Charm us, orator, if the lion look no larger than the cat.
Till the cat, through that mirage of overheated language loom
Larger than the lion Demos end in working its own doom.
Tumble nature heel over head, and yelling with the yelling street,
Set the feet above the brain and swear the brain is in the feet.
Bring the old dark ages back, without the faith, without the hope,
Beneath the state, the church, the throne, and roll their ruins down the slope.
Authors, athletes, essayist, novelist, realist, rhymester, play your part,
Paint the mortal shame of nature with the living hues of art.
Feed the building rose of boyhood with the drainage of your sewer,
Send the drain into the fountain lest the stream should issue pure.
Set the maiden fancies wallowing in the trough of Zolaism;
Forward, forward, aye! and backward, downward, too, in the abyss.
Finally the poet asks—
Shall we find a changeless May after madness—after madness, Jacobinism and Jacques? Some diviner force to guide through the days I shall not see?

A New District Ring in Washington.

It is loud in the wind that there is another "District Ring" in Washington in imitation of the one that culminated in the famous "safe burglary job," and caused the chief and his minions to retire from the festive scene where they had drunk Burgundy and eaten terrapin and canvass-back duck in the pretty clubhouse on New York avenue that afterwards became headquarters for the Young Men's Christian Association.

The way that shekels poured into the pockets of these gentlemen sports was beautiful to behold—to the members. 'Twas bright, but 'twas a dream. There is one left on the scene, and it is doubtless he who has inaugurated the plan that causes the reader of Washington papers to be regaled with ornamental anecdotes about new avenues and parks.

A ribald reporter gets off the following squib on the real estate boom: "Five years ago I bought a nice lot in the cemetery, got married and settled down to housekeeping with my wife and her mother."

He stopped as if enough had been said.

"Well," inquired the dealer, "what's that got to do with losing money on the investment? You've got the lot, haven't you?"

"Yes, and that's where the bullet hole is. The blamed lot has been lying idle ever since, and the old lady is growing fatter and sassier every year. No more real estate investments for me at present, thank you," and he moved on.

BY WHAT MEANS?

The Richmond *Dispatch* has at last argued itself around to our original position on the debt question. From the first we have begged the party leaders to try to settle the debt question before another election rolls around.—*Danville Register.*

The *Dispatch* has not "argued itself around" at all. Every reader of this paper knows that we stand to-day exactly where we have stood all the time since 1883—in favor of making the Riddleberger settlement a finality. For this purpose we would have the General Assembly to meet—not to try to patch up a new settlement. This latter is what we understand the *Register* to desire the Legislature to do if it meets.

The above is from the Richmond *Dispatch*. Now will our big Metropolitan contemporary for whose opinion we have great respect condescend to tell us by what means it proposes that the Legislature, if it reassembles, shall make the Riddleberger settlement a finality? Does it favor the plan of apportioning the taxes to the different cities and counties? If not this plan, then what method does it propose the Legislature to adopt by which the decisions of the United States courts in reference to the coupons may be rendered powerless? How does the *Dispatch* propose, in plainer words, that the State Legislature shall fight the United States Supreme Court? If the *Dispatch* has proposed or advocated any plan, we have failed to see it.

By answering these simple questions the *Dispatch*, we believe, will help the people to come to a more enlightened view of this important matter. But this is not the first time that we have asked this valued journal the questions we again beg it to answer.—*Portsmouth Times.*

The Petersburg "Index-Appeal" Talks Common Sense.

With all proper respect for the Richmond *Dispatch*, and giving due weight to the value of its opinion, we must reiterate our belief that the statement of the authorized agents of the council of foreign bondholders constitute a substantial proposition for settlement of the State debt. That the suggestion has been formally made or in detail is not contended; but surely the declaration of Mr. Royal that his clients would be willing to accept as interest the surplus of annual revenue remaining after defraying the expenses of Government and public schools furnishes to the voters and taxpayers of Virginia the general basis on which the largest holders of the coupon-bonds would be willing to adjust their claims. The proposition is identical with the Barbour bill of 1879, which the *Dispatch* then considered unjust to the public creditor—with the advantage to the State that the principal of the debt has been decreased by the amount of old bonds funded into Riddlebergers. Certainly we cannot doubt that Mr. Royal had authority for this declaration or that his clients would make it good should the Legislature adopt the suggestion.

As to another branch of the subject on which the *Dispatch* vehemently insists—the sanctity of the obligation of the Democratic party to the Riddleberger settlement—we must also beg leave respectfully to express dissent. Public duty, whether of an individual or a party, must be measured by circumstance. Why or how does the edict of the Lynchburg convention irrevocably commit the Virginia Democracy to this settlement when the pledges of five preceding State conventions of that party did not irrevocably pledge it against that settlement? Since 1883 the courts have passed upon the readjuster legislation and pronounce it unconstitutional. Is the Democracy to continue to wage war against the solemn decisions of the supreme bench of the Federal Government? The Democracy can afford to correct a blunder and to remedy a wrong. *Bedford Index.*

Mr. A. B. Williams' editorial on Governor Perry, in the Greenville *News*, has been justly admired by all who read it. Williams is not only one of the ablest and most fearless of journalists, but the soul of honesty. His words are backed by a fine character.—*Augusta Chronicle.*

That report of the "Servant Girl's Union" got into the gossip column of a newspaper as something about marrying.

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